Potential Impact of ‘Public Access’ Legislation on Access to Forestry Literature

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Presented at the 2008 USAIN Biennial Conference
Wooster, Ohio, April 29, 2008

(Minor revisions were incorporated into this PowerPoint for submission to Cornell University's "locale collection.")
More Information

For details of this study, please read the following article:


http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.serrev.2008.09.009
Overview

- Background of Public Access Movement
- Federal support of research published in core forestry journals
- Question & Comments
Copyright and Government Works

“Copyright protection under this title is not available for any work of the United States Government ...”

Source: http://www.copyright.gov/title17/92chap1.html#105
Application to Journal Articles

- No transfer of copyright if all authors are federal government employees, but ...
- “When the U.S. Government is joint author with a non-government entity, the law on ... copyright is unsettled and is thus open to differing interpretations. “

Source: http://www.cendi.gov/publications/04-8copyright.html
Public Access Movement

- Belief that the public has the right to publicly-funded research.
- An international movement
- Criticized by many publishers and others
- Congressional efforts
  - NIH Public Access [passed]
Public Access to Science Act

- Introduced by Rep. Martin Sabo [MN]
- “United States Government funded research belongs to, and should be freely available to, every person in the United States.”
- Placed in the public domain any research receiving “substantial” funding from any federal agency
- Died in committee

Source: http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c108:H.R.2613:

- Introduced by Sen. John Cornyn [TX]
- Required submission of final, peer-reviewed manuscripts
- No requirement for “substantial” funding
- Six-month embargo allowed
- Limited to federal agencies with more than $100 million in extramural research
- Died in committee

Source: http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:s.02695:
NIH Public Access Policy

- Signed into law as part of Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008
- Requires submission of peer-reviewed manuscripts to PubMed Central within 12 months
- Requires implementation “in a manner consistent with copyright law.”
NIH policy applies to research …

1. Directly funded by an NIH grant or cooperative agreement active …;
2. Directly funded by a contract …;
3. Directly funded by the NIH Intramural Program.
4. If NIH pays your salary.

Source: http://publicaccess.nih.gov/FAQ.htm#general
But only for journal articles

“The NIH Public Access Policy applies to all peer-reviewed journal articles that arise from the NIH intramural program or any amount of direct costs funded by NIH, regardless of the source or amount of other funding.”

Source: http://publicaccess.nih.gov/FAQ.htm#general
Abundance matters: a field experiment testing the more individuals hypothesis for richness–productivity relationships

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The more individuals hypothesis (MIH) postulates that productivity increases species richness by increasing mean equilibrium population size, thereby reducing the probability of local extinction. We tested the MIH with a field experiment that compared richness–productivity relationships under high and low immigration conditions.
Federal support of research published in core forestry journals
Methodology

Selected top 5 journals cited by journals in the Forestry category of 2006 JCR

- Canadian Journal of Forest Research
- Ecology
- Forest Ecology & Management
- Forest Science
- Tree Physiology
Methodology

- Exported bibliographic data for all articles and reviews from 2006
- In Access, recorded information about
  - government authorship
  - government funding
  - American authorship
### Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Articles:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Federal Authorship (total):</strong></td>
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<td>190</td>
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<td>Full</td>
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<td><strong>Federal Funding (no federal authorship):</strong></td>
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<td>268</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Federal Authorship or Funding:</strong></td>
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Total Articles vs. U.S Authored Articles

Total Articles (n=1441) U.S. Authored Articles (n=656)

- Neither: 68%
- Funding Only: 19%
- Federal Author: 13%
- Funding Only: 30%
- Federal Author: 41%
- Federal Author: 29%
Results by Journal for All Articles

Top 5 Author Agencies

- United States Department of Agriculture (152)
- United States Geological Survey (25)
- Department of Energy (6)
- Fish & Wildlife Service (6)
- National Park Service (5)

Many of these are archived by the agencies!
Publication Information

Title: Key issues in making and using satellite-based maps in ecology: a primer

Author: Fassnacht, Karin S.; Cohen, Warren B.; Spies, Thomas A.

Date: 2006


Description: The widespread availability of satellite imagery and image processing software has made it relatively easy for ecologists to use satellite imagery to address questions at the landscape and regional scales. However, as often happens with complex tools that are rendered easy to use by computer software, technology may be misused or used without an understanding of some of the limitations or caveats associated with a particular application. The results can be disappointment when maps are less accurate than expected or incorrect decisions when they are treated as truth. In this paper, we discuss several key issues which are critical to ensuring the effectiveness and value of remote sensing products, but which are also sometimes sources of confusion: (1) direct versus indirect models of land surface properties and processes, (2) differences between class-based and continuous mapping models, (3) scale, and (4) accuracy assessment. We illustrate our points with examples from the application of satellite imagery to forest management issues in the Pacific Northwest, USA. While our examples focus largely on Landsat image data, the issues we discuss have broad relevance across sensor data types, land cover properties, and geographic locations.

Key Words: classification, scale, accuracy assessment, remote sensing, satellite

View and Print this Publication (1.7 MB)

Pristine Version: An uncorrected or "pristine" version of this publication is available. It has not been subjected to OCR (Optical Character Recognition) and
Top 5 Funding Agencies

- National Science Foundation (193)
- United States Department of Agriculture (82)
- Environmental Protection Agency (17)
- Department of Energy (14)
- National Aeronautical & Space Agency (15)

Note: For articles with a government author, acknowledged funding from the author’s agency was not included.
Conclusion

- Nearly 1 out of 3 articles in the selected journals acknowledged federal authorship or funding.
- Public access legislation could ensure access to that research, especially for those articles without a federal government author.
- Access to this research could benefit:
  - Private foresters
  - Smaller universities and colleges
Further Research

- Potential effect if other countries passed public access legislation
- Extent to which government authors archive their work
- Researcher acceptance of final author manuscripts as a substitute for the published article


Questions or Comments?

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